

08 November 2020

Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Preliminary Last Step Restrictions Ease

On Sunday, 8 November Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and Health Minister Martin Foley announced a transition to the preliminary stages of the Last Step restrictions across Victoria.

The Premier noted Victoria has achieved an unprecedented containment effort, and now must “stay safe to stay open.”.

Executive Adjustments

The Premier outlined key readjustments to how the Government will function going forward. The Government will not seek an extension to the State of Disaster; instead will seek an extension to the State of Emergency to Sunday 6 December.

The [Crisis Council of Cabinet](#) will also be dissolved to make way for regular Cabinet arrangements; as well as the return to Cabinet Sub-Committees including the critical Expenditure Review Committee.

Additionally, this will see a normalisation in the way the public service advises the Government and implements decisions.

Active Cases

Victoria recorded its ninth straight day with zero new cases. Metropolitan Melbourne’s 14-day rolling average case number is now at 0.4, and Regional Victoria’s remains at 0.0. Victoria has zero cases under investigation and two cases with an unknown source over the last fortnight. There are only 8 active cases in Victoria, all in isolation; and it is this caseload that makes it safe to further ease restrictions.

Preliminary Last Step Restrictions Easing Framework

Category	Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria restrictions from Monday, 9 November
Reasons to leave your home	<p>Stay safe: no restrictions on reasons to leave the house, 25km travel restriction removed</p> <p>Intrastate travel: allowed</p> <p>Face coverings: no change</p>
Gatherings	<p>Private gatherings: Each day, a household can receive up to two different adult visitors per day, either together or separately. Dependents of the visitors are excluded from visitor caps if they cannot be left unattended or cared for in another setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any intimate partners of those who ordinarily reside at the household being visited are excluded from daily visitor caps. <p>Public places: no change.</p>

<p>Indoor sport and recreation</p>	<p>Indoor physical recreation (including gyms, classes and personal training):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adults: Strict density quotient of 1 per 8m². -Patron cap of up to 10 per space and 20 per venue with a maximum group size of 10 per session. -Patrons continue to wear face masks unless out of breath. -Staggered class times and time gap of 15 minutes to avoid congregation and exceeding group limits. -Required to have a COVIDSafe Marshal onsite. <p>-Children (18 and under): Non-contact activities permitted where a distance of 1.5 metres can be maintained for a maximum of 20 people.</p> <p>-Spectators are limited to one parent, guardian or carer only, where child requires supervision.</p> <p>Indoor community sport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adults: Not permitted -Children (18 and under): Non-contact activities permitted where a distance of 1.5 metres can be maintained for a maximum of 20 people. Spectators are limited to one parent, guardian or carer only, where child requires supervision. <p>Indoor Skateparks: Open to people aged 18 years and under with a maximum of 20 patrons, group limits of 10, density quotient of 1 per 4m². Spectators are limited to one parent, guardian or carer only, where child requires supervision.</p> <p>Playcentres and indoor trampoline parks: Open with patron cap of 20 and group limits of 10, density quotient of 1 per 4m². Spectators are limited to one parent, guardian or carer only, where child requires supervision.</p>
<p>Outdoor Sport and recreation including pools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outdoor physical recreation and personal training: no change - Outdoor fitness or dance classes: no change - Community sport: no change - Outdoor communal gym equipment: no change - Outdoor swimming pools: no change - Publicly accessible playgrounds: no change - Skateparks: no change
<p>Community facilities</p>	<p>Libraries and toy libraries: Gathering limit of 20 people maximum indoors, with no more than 10 in a space, subject to density quotient</p> <p>Community venues: no change</p>
<p>Childcare facilities</p>	<p>Childcare facilities: no change</p> <p>In-home child minding: no change</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Hospitality</p>	<p>Food and drink facilities: open for seated indoor and outdoor service (both food and/or drink): No change to most restrictions</p> <p>Hospitality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indoor: group and space limit of 10 and seated service, cap of 40 patrons subject to density quotient - Outdoor: Increasing to a patron cap of 70 patrons per venue outdoors subject to the outdoor density quotient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Live music no change <p>Note: “Spaces” can be separated by either temporary structures or at least 5 metres between collections of 10 seats or less, subject to the overall indoor cap of 40 and a density of 1 per 4m² .</p> <p>Live music at venues: Requirement of 5m distance from audience, and 2m between performers. Recommend live music performed outdoors where possible. Performance and rehearsal rules for professionals apply to all live music settings. Performers are excluded from venue cap.</p> <p>Food courts: open</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Study</p>	<p>Adult education: no change</p> <p>School: Open</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Shopping, retail and personal services</p>	<p>Hairdressing, beauty and personal care services: no change</p> <p>Market stalls: no change</p> <p>Auction houses: no change</p> <p>Other retail: no change</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Entertainment</p>	<p>Cinemas; music halls, concert halls and auditoriums; galleries and museums; - Open for a maximum of 20 people per space (e.g. each screening room, gallery space or auditorium). - 1.5m distance between bookings, maximum, with bookings of 10 people.</p> <p>Performance times (including film screenings) must be staggered to minimum interval of 30 mins between sessions to avoid crowds in foyers and bathrooms.</p> <p>Non-seated outdoor entertainment spaces, such as zoos or live museums, excluding events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Indoor spaces within these venues classified as museums open as per indoor entertainment <p>Casino: Open 10 separate rooms, electronic gaming machines and electronic gaming tables only. Maximum of 10 people per room. Additional COVIDSafe requirements apply.</p> <p>Electronic gaming: Electronic gaming to equivalent of 25 per cent of indoor hospitality limit of 40 patrons or up to 10 patrons per venue per electronic gaming room. Additional COVIDSafe requirements apply.</p>

<p>Ceremonies and religious gatherings</p>	<p>Indoor religious gatherings: Allowed for up to 20 people, plus one faith leader, with strict requirements to be contained in a COVIDSafe Plan</p> <p>Outdoor religious gatherings and ceremonies: up to 50 people, plus 1 faith leader, proximate to a place of worship</p> <p>Private worship: no change</p> <p>Weddings: no change</p> <p>Funerals: Indoors, no change, Outdoors up to 50 people, infants under 12 months and people to conduct funeral not included in cap</p>
<p>Real-estate services</p>	<p>Real estate inspections: increase limit to 10 people from any number of households, subject to density quotient and COVIDSafe requirements</p>
<p>Accommodation</p>	<p>Accommodation: open, but each group booking is restricted to: Only members of a single household; OR intimate partners; OR members of a single household and two adults and any of their dependent children or dependents</p> <p>Members of separately booked groups do not share bedrooms at the facility.</p>
<p>Tourism (tours and transport)</p>	<p>Outdoor spaces: tour vehicles that supports the primary outdoor offering of the tourism facility, for trips of up to 30 minutes.</p> <p>Smaller vehicles: private gathering limit of a household plus 2 people and their dependents.</p> <p>Larger vehicles: up to 10 people, infants under 12 months not included in cap.</p>

Heavy Industry Changes

<p>Meat, poultry and seafood processing</p>	<p>Abattoirs and meat processing: The operator of the facility must reduce their workforce by 20 per cent or to 25 workers, whichever is higher.</p> <p>Poultry processing: The operator of the facility must reduce their workforce by 10 per cent or to 25 workers, whichever is higher.</p> <p>Seafood processing: The operator of the facility must reduce their workforce by 20 per cent or to 40 workers, whichever is higher.</p> <p>All meat, poultry and seafood: COVIDSafe requirements in the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions and the Workplace Directions</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Industry</p>	<p>Manufacturing: COVIDSafe requirements in the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions and the Workplace Directions.</p> <p>Wholesale facilities: COVIDSafe requirements in the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions and the Workplace Directions.</p> <p>Warehousing and distribution centres: COVIDSafe requirements in the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions and the Workplace Directions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Food production and distribution</p>	<p>Supermarket or perishable food work premises that is a chilled distribution facility: COVIDSafe requirements in the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions and the Workplace Directions.</p> <p>Seasonal horticulture: COVIDSafe requirements in the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions and the Workplace Directions.</p>

For further details see the Victorian Government's [Industry Easing Levels](#) and ['Roadmap to Reopening'](#).

Industry

If a business does not have retail premises, then it should continue operating remotely unless it is not reasonably practicable to do so. The Retail Industry Restart Guidance can be found [here](#).

All businesses are required to have a COVIDSafe Plan demonstrating:

- Actions to help prevent the introduction of COVID-19 and responding to suspect or confirmed cases
- Mandated use of face masks (except where exemptions apply)
- How requirements set by the Victorian Government are being met.

Some useful links for the businesses:

- [Six principles for COVIDsafe workplaces](#)
- [Face masks at work](#) which includes examples of exceptions to use.

International Travel

International flights from New Zealand will be able to land directly in Melbourne from Monday, 09 November.

Premier Daniel Andrews said he had written to Prime Minister Scott Morrison to say the state would join the trans-Tasman bubble, after seven days in a row of zero COVID-19 cases.

Face Masks

Victorians are required to wear a fitted face mask, covering the nose and mouth. Masks are mandatory *across all of Victoria* when outside households for everyone over the age of twelve. Exceptions apply, including for relevant medical conditions.

Advanced Last Step Restrictions Easing

From Monday 23 November subject to sustained low COVID case numbers, and no new mystery community transfer, Victoria is set to further ease restrictions.

Last Step Restrictions – From Monday 23 November	
Category	Restrictions
Social	<p>Public gatherings: increased to up to 50 people outdoors.</p> <p>Visitors to the home: up to 10 visitors allowed in homes.</p>
Education and childcare	<p>Childcare and early educators: open.</p> <p>Schools: open.</p> <p>Adult education: learn from home if you can, onsite learning for hands-on, skills-based learning.</p>
Work	Work from home if you can.
Shopping, Hospitality and Personal Services	<p>Hospitality: 100 patrons inside venues, with density requirements of one person per four meters squared. 200 person outside, with density requirements of two metres squared.</p> <p>Food courts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indoor: limited to the lesser of 50 per cent of a venue’s fixed seating capacity or a density quotient of 1 per 8m² , with a maximum of four people per table, plus dependents. - Outdoor: limited to 50 patrons per area subject to a density quotient of 1 per 2m² , with a maximum of 20 people per table. Each such area must be separated by 10 metres from the next. No more than 10 areas per facility to a maximum of 500 people. <p>Retail: Open with a COVID-safe plan.</p> <p>Real estate: auctions can occur with a maximum of 10 people and commercial real estate inspections can occur.</p> <p>Personal Services: Hairdressing, beauty and personal care services: Masks can be removed for the person receiving the service of procedure if necessary, such as facial waxing, facials, beard trimmings and piercings around the mouth, nose and cheeks</p>
Exercise and recreation	<p>Indoor physical recreation (gyms): Patron cap of up to 100 people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group or class size up to 20 people. - Density quotient of 1 per 4m² <p>Indoor skate parks up to 50 people,</p> <p>Trampoline and play centres will allow up to 50 patrons, in groups of up to 20, with a density quotient of 1 per 4m².</p> <p>Indoor community sport – contact or non-contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patron cap of up to 100 people. - Group or class size up to 20 people. - Density quotient of 1 per 4m² <p>Outdoor sport and recreation – contact or non-contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patron cap of 500, group sizes align with public gathering limits of 50 people, with a density quotient of 1 per 4m². <p>Indoor pools, including lessons: Patron cap of 50, excluding supervisors, with a density quotient of 1 per 4m² .</p> <p>Outdoor pools, including lessons: Open with no patron cap but a density quotient of 1 per 4m² .</p> <p>Outdoor recreation: up to 500 people, in groups of a maximum of 50.</p>

<p>Ceremonies and Occasions</p>	<p>Weddings: up to 100 people, or up to 10 if it is held at a private residence.</p> <p>Funerals: up to 100 people, or up to 10 if it is held at a private residence.</p> <p>Religion: 100 people indoors (in groups of 20) and 500 people outdoors.</p>
<p>Entertainment, Community Centres and leisure</p>	<p>Indoor seated venues (e.g. cinemas and theatres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open for a maximum of 100 people per space and up to 20 people in any group booking), subject to density of 1 per 4m², and a max 25% capacity <p>Indoor non-seated venue (e.g. museums and galleries, State Library): Open, group limit of 20, maximum of 100 people per venue, subject to density quotient of 1 per 4m², max 25% capacity. <i>Further announcements will be made on Last Step settings.</i> Events may be considered separately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outdoor spaces: Open, for up to 50 per cent seat-ed capacity up to a maximum of 500 people and density quotient of 1 per 4m². - Indoor spaces at outdoor venues: Open, subject to restrictions on hospitality or retail depending on the space. <p>Arcade, amusement park, escape room, bingo centre: o Indoors: Group limit of 20, up to 100 people subject to density quotient of 1 per 4m².</p> <p>Casino: Open subject to patron caps (to be determined) and a density quotient of 1 per 4m².</p> <p>Electronic gaming: Group limit of 20, Venue cap of 100, density quotient of 1 per 4m².</p> <p>Nightclubs and karaoke: closed.</p> <p>Creative studios, including venues for art and music: Up to 20 people per space with 1.5 metres distance between patrons and subject to density quotient.</p> <p>Accommodation: Groups of up to 10 from any number of families can share accommodation..</p> <p>Sporting Venues: Large sporting venues will be able to have patrons up to 50 per cent of their usual capacity</p> <p>Libraries and Community Centres: to 100 people in groups of up to 20, subject to density requirements.</p>
<p>Travel and Accommodation</p>	<p>Accommodation: open, restricted to private gathering cap of 10 people from any number of households.</p> <p>Outdoor tourism spaces: Density quotient of 1 per 4m². Indoor tourism spaces:</p> <p>Indoor tourism spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seated: The lesser of 100 people or 25 per cent of seated capacity and subject to density quo-tient, with 20 per group - Non-seated: 25 per cent of venue capacity. <p>Tour transport: aligned to gatherings limits.</p>

Further Information

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant, Victorian Director, JP Blandthorn on +61 407 366 304 or Policy and Business Analyst, Raphael Mengem at rmengem@hawkerbritton.com.

Further Hawker Britton Occasional Papers on the activities of the Victorian Government are available



[here](#). For further coverage of Labor Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Hawker Britton Briefs [here](#). For further coverage of Liberal Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Barton Deakin Briefs [here](#).